



## • INFO memo - Feb. 13, 2004

City of Broken Arrow  
P.O. Box 610  
Broken Arrow, OK 74013  
[www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator  
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 251-6642

### **BA Hogs 'Top Cop' Buckledown Awards**

The real reward is in knowing lives are being saved. But members of the Broken Arrow Police Department's Traffic Specialist Unit Thursday received some additional rewards that prove what they're doing is being noticed throughout the state of Oklahoma.

At Thursday's Oklahoma Highway Safety Office Buckledown Award program at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, four BAPD officers were presented "Top Cop" awards, five were given BATSU "Leadership" awards and Sgt. Ed Ferguson was given the Leadership award for Traffic Safety Enforcement.

Statistics just released for the 2003 calendar year show that vehicle collisions in Broken Arrow were down 12 percent – a decline for the third straight year. The TSU has been targeting specific violations during heavy traffic periods of the year, particularly holidays and back-to-school times.

Bringing home awards from the Buckledown Program, which concentrates on proper use of seat belts and infant restraint systems, were Officer Tim Collins, Top Cop for Occupant Protection enforcement; Officer Eric Nester, Top Cop for Impaired Driving enforcement; Sgt. Scott Bennett, Top Cop for Impaired Driving enforcement; and Officer Deidre Henson, Top Cop for Traffic Safety enforcement.

The BATSU Leadership award went to Officer Keith Cook, Officer Chris Chambers, Officer Brad McCombs and Henson and Collins for Traffic Safety enforcement.

Sgt. Ferguson's award was particularly impressive. Mike Garner of the Tulsa Police Department and Tulsa Area Safe Kids Coalition, explained that, "The Top Cop awards are based on the numbers of citations given, but the Leadership award is given for those who set the stage for the officers to go out and do their jobs. They go far beyond numbers and beyond themselves. Sgt. Ferguson has been the one to motivate his officers, direct the program and keep a continuing support from the department."

Representatives from law enforcement agencies throughout the state were on hand at the awards presentation.

## **Homeowners Association Workshop Next Saturday**

Saturday morning, Feb. 21, the City of Broken Arrow will once again give officers and representatives of the community's Homeowners Associations an opportunity to learn more about what can and can't be done in and around their neighborhoods – and how to deal with a myriad of other situations that contribute to the quality of life in Broken Arrow.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Central Middle School (College and Main), and is free and open to the public. Representatives from the City's staff, including Planning Director Farhad Daroga, will be on hand to answer questions and to take input from the audience. There will also be independent attorneys available to answer questions about homeowners associations and their rights.

Among the items up for discussion will be zoning and development, inspections and code enforcement, public safety, the legal and practical aspects of homeowners' association operations and insurance and non-profit status for those associations.

## **Citizen Crime Survey in the Mail, on the Web**

The Broken Arrow Police Department wants to know what citizens here think about a variety of issues, from their concerns to their image of law enforcement in the community. In an effort to get input from residents, the BAPD has inserted a Citizen Crime Survey in water bills being mailed throughout the month of February.

The survey is also available on the City's web site ([www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)), with a link to the on-line form from the home page (lower left corner).

Police Chief Todd Wuestewald states in a message included in the survey that "I want to ensure that this department meets the needs of the Broken Arrow community....The information you provide will be used to help us make decisions about how we do our day-to-day business, as well as plan for the future."

The survey asks citizens to rate how concerned they are about such crimes as burglary, vandalism, juvenile problems, gang activity and more. They also want to know if crimes are being reported to the police, if officers treated them with concern if they did make a report, etc.

## **BA Leaders Gain from EMI Experience**

Some of the most valuable lessons brought back from the Emergency Management Institute training session last week by City of Broken Arrow officials concerned communications with leaders in Tulsa.

County and City officials of Tulsa gave up four of their 75 slots in the EMI program to Broken Arrow. Mayor Richard Carter, Police Chief Todd Wuestewald, Interim Fire Chief Greg Neely and Police Maj. Norm Stephens all attended the

conference in Emmitsburg, Md. The Institute provides a nationwide training program of resident courses and non-resident courses “to enhance U.S. emergency management practices.”

While the tabletop exercises involving the public safety officials each day were extremely valuable training tools, all four of the BA representatives cited the opportunity to work with their counterparts in Tulsa as one of the biggest benefits of the conference.

Mayor Carter explained that he now could put “faces with names” and felt comfortable about walking into county and city offices in Tulsa to visit with leaders there whom he had not known before.

Neely and Wuestewald both emphasized that in the event of any major disaster in the area, agencies from Tulsa would be working with those of Broken Arrow and other local communities.

Carter said that there would be followup meetings between those who attended during the next few weeks.

## **Trees Going Up in Median, Trails Area**

The concrete median from Jasper to the entrance to the Indian Springs Sports Complex is getting dressed up a bit.

The Parks & Recreation Department has been busy planting trees in the median to give it more of a “boulevard” appearance. The widening of that section of Aspen was completed this past fall. There is also signalization of that Aspen-Jasper intersection now as well.

This should be a tremendous boost when the spring sports seasons start in soccer and baseball at ISSC.

Crews from the Grounds Maintenance Section dug the holes in the median for the trees, and Mark Higgins and his horticulture/forestry section did the planting and mulching.

Higgins reports that 56 trees were planted in the South Loop Trail site near New Orleans and Garnett, replacing trees which had to be removed. That work will continue as the trail develops.

## **Officer Bradfield Praised**

Police Officer Keith Bradfield recently drew praise from a City resident who simply needed a little explanation of a “mess.” The citizen called to commend Bradfield for “taking time to visit with me and explain things I did not understand.” She added that she had been dealing with a “mess” for the past five years and, after speaking with Bradfield, she “finally gets it.”

## **No Holiday for City Monday**

Schools will be closed for Presidents’ Day Monday and many banks will also be closed, but the City offices will remain open. Trash pickup will follow normal schedules this next week.

